TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 30, 1992 -- All three general measures of rail freight traffic rose again last week, with intermodal traffic showing the sharpest gains, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Railroads originated 121,901 trailers and containers during the week ended April 25, up 8.8 percent from the comparable week in 1991. Carload freight, which does not include intermodal, was up only 0.4 percent during the week, to 325,138. Revenue ton-miles rose 3.1 percent, to 20.2 billion.

"Last week's traffic figures once again support the notion that the expected economic recovery will, at best, be modest," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's Economics and Finance Department.

"Chemicals and petroleum products were both up 12 percent. But both lumber and wood products and autos, which were showing significant gains earlier this year, declined. So, while the overall traffic gains are encouraging, there remain some questions as to how strong an economic recovery we're seeing."

For the first 17 weeks of 1992, overall traffic figures remain above 1991 levels. Intermodal is up 7.9 percent at 2,080,544 trailers and containers. Carloads are up 2.2 percent at 5,431,515. Ton-miles are up 4.9 percent, with railroads having moved an estimated 346.7 billion so far in 1992.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of rail carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal traffic.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
		COMPARISON WITH			
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 1992	SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	23,984	23,576	1.7 %	24,535	-2.2 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,659	1,528	8.6	1,649	0.6
Metallic Ores	16,262	18,412	-11.7	18,225	-10.8
Coal	120,634	124,208	-2.9	118,191	2.1
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	14,759	14,536	1.5	13,043	13.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,426	8,751	7.7	8,538	10.4
Grain Mill Products	9,830	10,042	-2.1	9,546	3.0
Food & Kindred Products	9,054	8,381	8.0	8,576	5.6
Primary Forest Products	9,100	8,417	8.1	9,278	-1.9
Lumber & Wood Products	6,063	6,272	-3.3	5,935	2.2
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,564	9,666	9.3	10,055	5.1
Chemicals	31,438	28,063	12.0	29,099	8.0
Petroleum Products	5,481	4,895	12.0	5,046	8.6
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,326	9,526	-2.1	9,399	-0.8
Coke	5,317	4,513	17.8	5,489	-3.1
Metals & Products	10,238	9,757	4.9	9,935	3.0
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	16,298	17,408	-6.4	15,880	2.6
Waste & Scrap Materia	8,753	8,238	6.3	8,573	2.1
All Other Carloads	6,952	7,663	-9.3	6,250	11.2
Total	**325,138**	**323,852**	**0.4 %**	**317,242**	**2.5 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
	WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 17 WEEKS ENDING APRIL 25, 1992		
TRAFFIC	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**325,138**	**323,852**	**0.4 %**	**5,431,515**	**5,315,660**	**2.2 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	59,379	58,379	1.7	1,018,623	996,692	2.2
Containers	62,522	53,674	16.5	1,061,921	930,961	14.1
Total	**121,901**	**112,053**	**8.8**	**2,080,544**	**1,927,653**	**7.9**
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	**20.2**	**19.6**	**3.1 %**	**346.7**	**330.4**	**4.9 %**

NOTES: Effective with Week 15, CSX Transportation figures include RFP. CSXT's traffic for prior weeks is the sum of CSXT's and RFP's traffic. Traffic interchanged between these roads prior to Week 15 has not been excluded from "received" traffic.

Carloadings are estimated for: Week 14, 1992 - GTW.